



Chestnut Grove Academy

HEADTEACHER: Mr. Christian Kingsley MA MSc NPQH

Monday 20th May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Year 12 End of Year Exams – Monday 3rd June to Friday 7th June 2024
(Without study leave)**

I write to explain the arrangements for the Year 12 End of Year Exams, which Year 12 students will be sitting during the week commencing Monday 3rd June 2024 (first week back after the May half-term).

These Year 12 End of Year Exams will be held as in-class assessments, during lesson time, as opposed to in the school's main Examination Hall. This is because the Sports Hall and the Exams Room (S.1.16) will already be in use to facilitate this summer's actual GCSE and A-Level/BTEC Level 3 public examinations. With larger Year 11 and Year 13 student cohorts than in previous years, we simply cannot now safely accommodate all the students collectively in the Sports Hall together. Therefore, use of the Sports Hall for the Year 12 End of Year Exams is not an option. Equally, we will have to compromise slightly on the delivery of access arrangements for Year 12 students during this week as our designated readers and scribes (our LSAs) will also be supporting our Year 11 and Year 13 students who are sitting public examinations, meaning they will not be available either.

Admittedly, this is less than ideal. However, Year 12 students have been working closely with their teachers across the academic year and subject staff will be facilitating access arrangements within the classroom as much as possible so as not to disadvantage any student. For example, extra time may run into lunchtime, or after school. The key point is that these in-class assessments will offer Year 12 students the chance to consolidate their newly acquired knowledge, understanding and skills, and will provide an opportunity for them to apply these to unfamiliar scenarios.

By sitting these Year 12 End of Year Exams during this week we are providing staff with sufficient time to turn around the marking and to report back to parents before we break for the summer. We are also able to discharge our other statutory commitments, such as delivering a robust two week Year 12 work experience (Ofsted – student personal development) and providing appropriate CEIAG as part of the Gatsby Benchmarks (with the provision of a UCAS/Apprenticeship week calendared for Thursday 11th July to Thursday 18th July). Both of these events help to ensure our students are able to make competitive applications for pathways beyond sixth form as they enter Year 13.

In lieu of being able to offer an Exam Hall experience this summer, please rest assured that I have already calendared Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs or 'Mocks'), with full access arrangements for Year 13 students, for November 2024 and March 2025. These two sets of PPEs will provide the robust run-throughs the students will need to be match ready for their actual public examinations at the end of Year 13 next summer.

I trust you will understand the timing and rationale for delivery of these Year 12 End of Year Exams in this manner, and will appreciate our very real efforts to do the right thing by our students - juggling both reporting to parents with providing outstanding opportunities for our students to develop and thrive, both at university and in the work place.

Therefore, I will not be publishing a specific 'Year 12 Exam Timetable' per se on this occasion. **Instead, Year 12 students must liaise closely with their teachers to ascertain what they will be tested on, and when, across the week of Monday 3rd June to Friday 7th June.** This message has been reinforced in assembly last week and forms part of the intrinsic maintenance of a learning dialogue between each student and their teacher, which is vital for progress. It will also ensure each student attends their lessons in the coming week so that they know what to revise.

I will write separately to you regarding Year 12 Work Experience (week beginning Monday 10th June), and separately again regarding the planned UCAS/Apprenticeship week. These will be emailed home in the coming days.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Taylor', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Taylor
Deputy Headteacher
Director of Sixth Form